

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Nebraska Opioid Summary

Last Updated May 2019

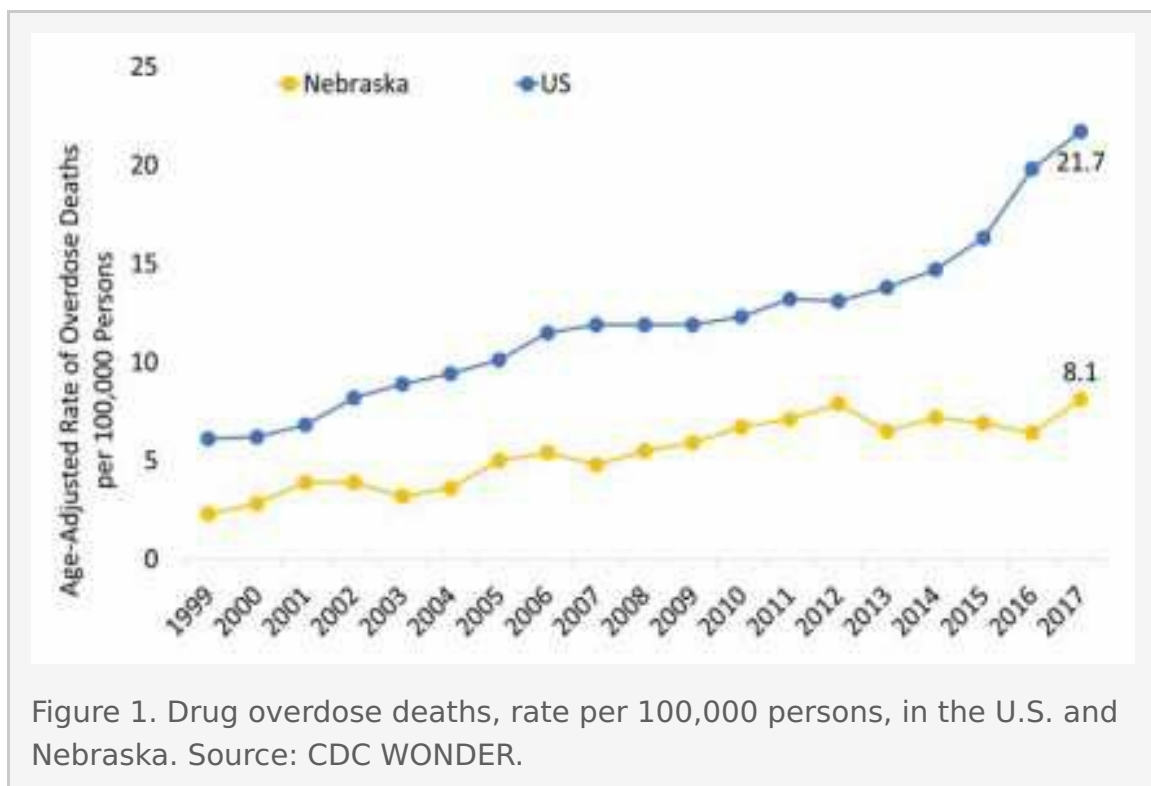
<https://www.drugabuse.gov>

Nebraska Opioid Summary

Drug Overdose Deaths

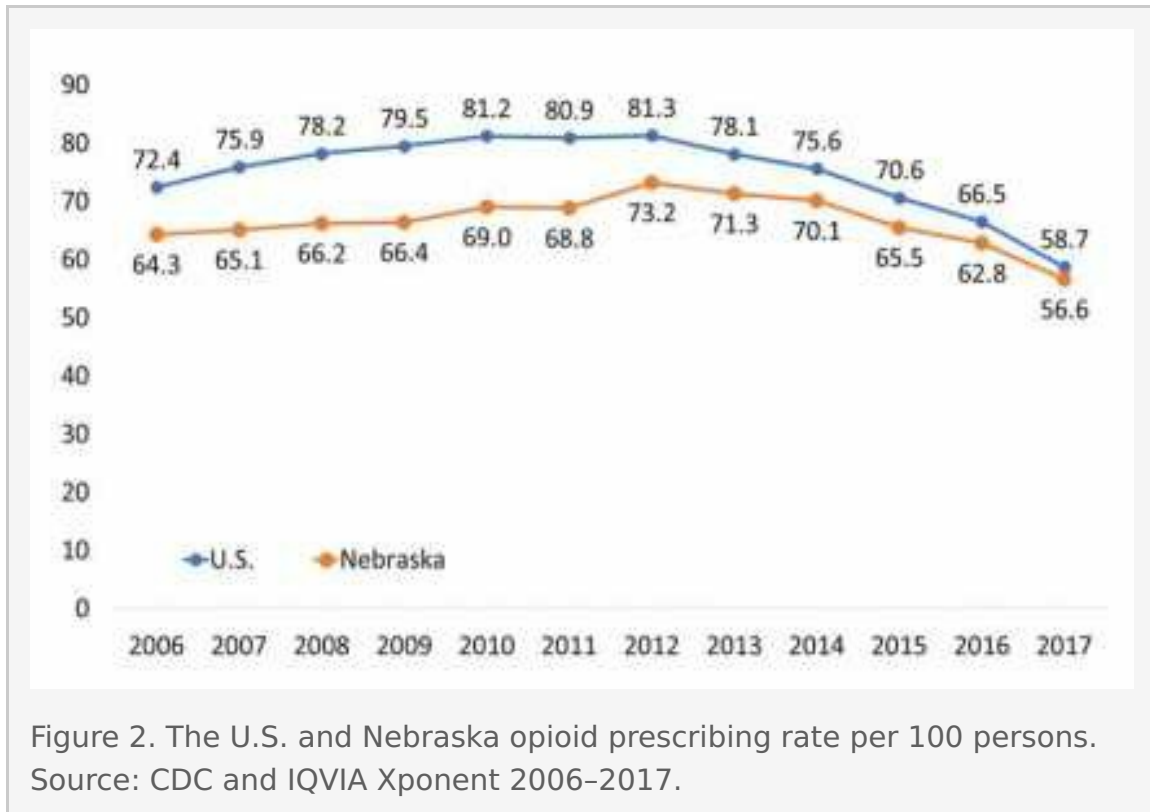
In 2017, there were more than 70,200 drug overdose deaths in the U.S.—an age-adjusted rate of 21.7 per 100,000 persons. Among these, 47,600 involved opioids. The sharpest increase occurred among deaths involving fentanyl and fentanyl analogs (other synthetic narcotics) with more than 28,400 overdose deaths in 2017.

The age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths has not changed in Nebraska over the past several years. In 2017, there were 8.1 drug overdose deaths per 100,000 persons. While the majority of drug overdose deaths in 2017 involved an opioid, overdose deaths involving opioids are not included for the state because the data reported did not meet inclusion criteria (see [Scholl L, et al. MMWR Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 2019;67:1419-1427](#)).



Opioid Pain Reliever Prescriptions

In 2017, Nebraska providers wrote 56.6 opioid prescriptions for every 100 persons (Figure 2). The average U.S. rate in the same year was 58.7 prescriptions per 100 persons ([CDC](#)).

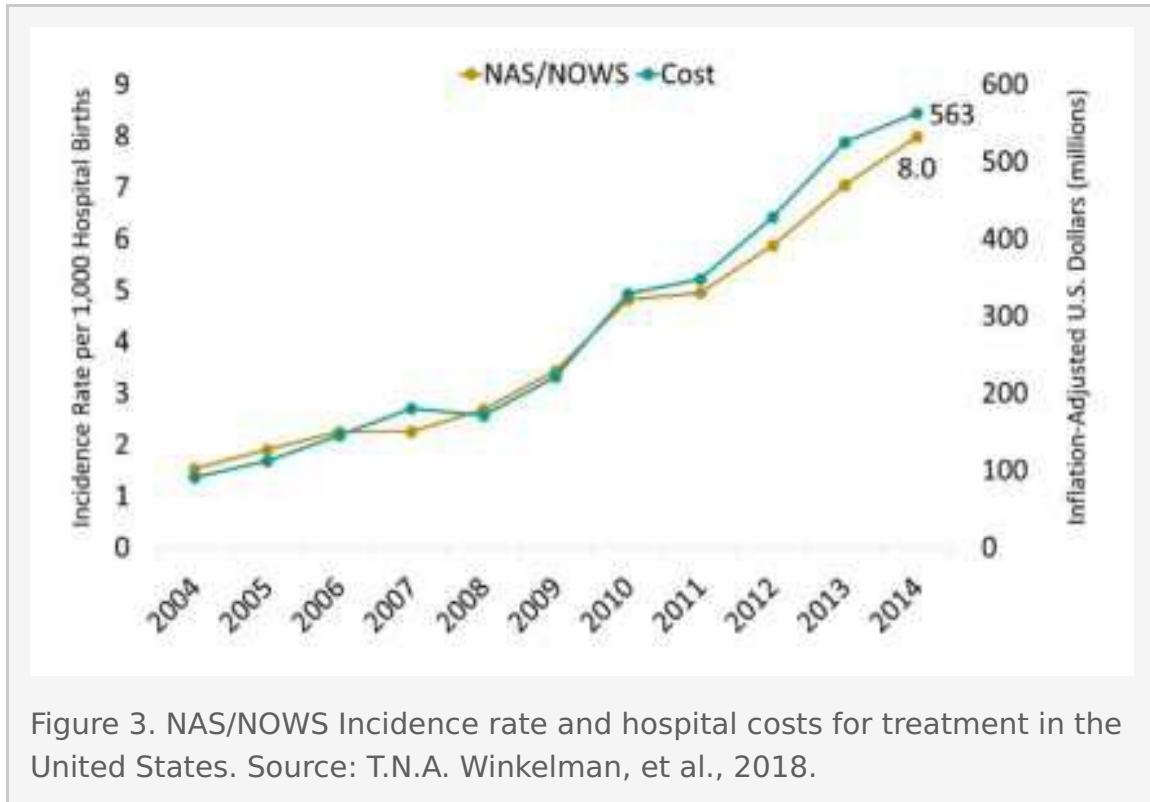


Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)

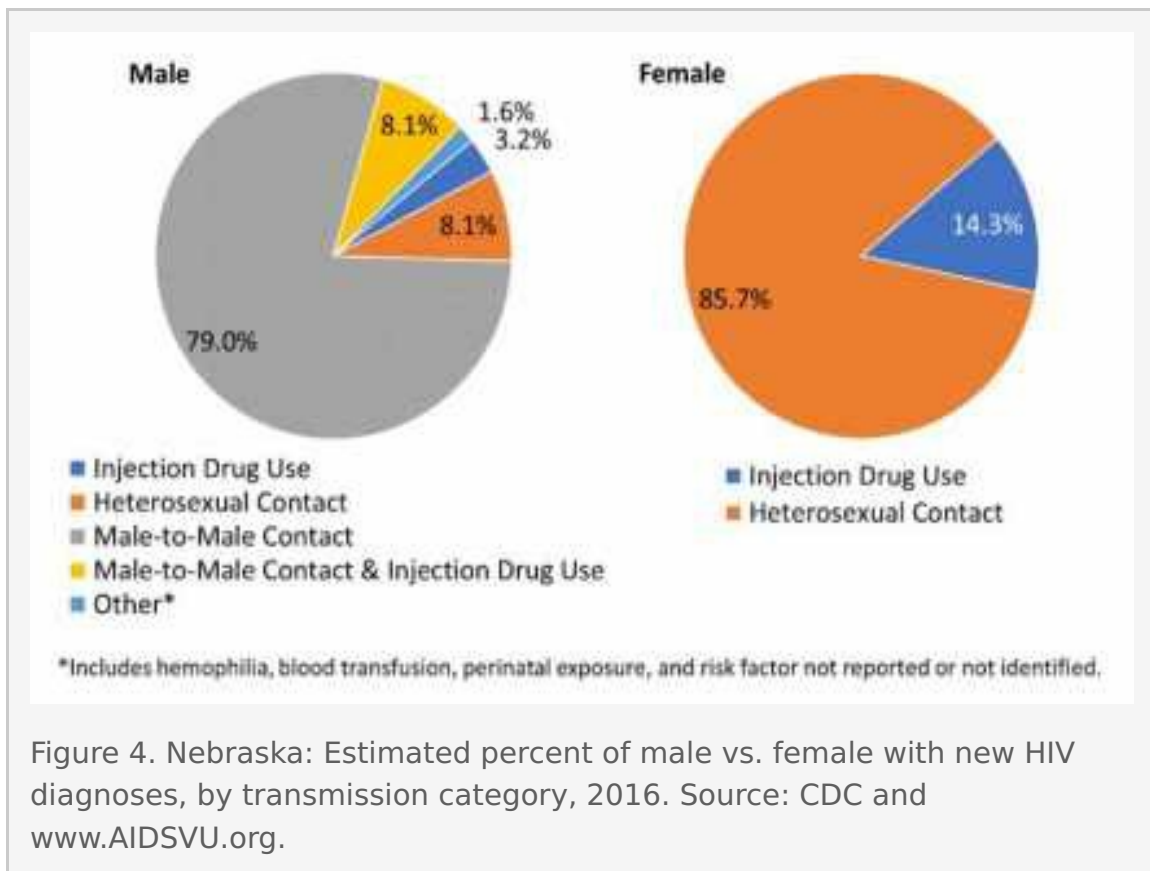
NAS or neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome (NOWS) may occur when a pregnant woman uses drugs such as opioids during pregnancy. A recent national study revealed a fivefold increase in the incidence of NAS/NOWS between 2004 and 2014, from 1.5 cases per 1,000 hospital births to 8.0 cases per 1,000 hospital births. This is the equivalent of one baby born with symptoms of NAS/NOWS every 15 minutes in the United States. During the same period, hospital costs for NAS/NOWS births increased from \$91 million to \$563 million, after adjusting for inflation (Figure 3).

To date, there is no standard in NAS/NOWS provider and hospital

coding practices ([CDC](#)). As a result, there is variability in trends and in the rate reported by states. The most recent data on the rate of babies born with NAS/NOWS in Nebraska is from 2014 and is based on state inpatient databases. The rate of NAS/NOWS doubled from 1.0 cases per 1,000 hospital births in 2010 to 2.3 cases per 1,000 hospital births in 2014 (Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project).



HIV Prevalence and HIV Diagnoses Attributed to Injection Drug Use (IDU)



- **U.S. Incidence:** In 2016, 9 percent (3,480) of the 39,589 new diagnoses of HIV in the United States were attributed to IDU. Among males, 6.3 percent (2,530) of new cases were transmitted via IDU or male-to-male contact and IDU. Among females, 2.3 percent (950) were transmitted via IDU ([CDC](http://www.CDC.gov)).
- **U.S. Prevalence:** In 2016, 991,447 Americans were living with a diagnosed HIV infection—a rate of 306.6 cases per 100,000 persons. Among males, 19.9 percent (150,466) contracted HIV from IDU or male-to-male contact and IDU while 21 percent (50,154) of females were living with HIV attributed to IDU ([CDC](http://www.CDC.gov)).
- **State Incidence:** Of the new HIV cases in 2016, 76 occurred in Nebraska. Among males, 11.3 percent of new HIV cases were attributed to IDU or male-to-male contact and IDU. Among females, 14.3 percent of new HIV cases were attributed to IDU (Figure 4) ([AIDSVU](http://www.AIDSVU.org)).
- **State Prevalence:** In 2015, an estimated 2,040 persons were living with a diagnosed HIV infection in Nebraska—a rate of 131 cases per 100,000 persons. Of those, 15.5 percent of cases among

males were attributed to IDU or male-to-male contact and IDU. Among females, 13.6 percent were living with HIV attributed to IDU ([AIDSVu](#)).

Hepatitis C (HCV) Prevalence and HCV Diagnoses Attributed to Injection Drug Use¹

- **U.S. Incidence:** In 2016, there were an estimated 41,200 new cases of acute HCV² ([CDC](#)). Among case reports that contain information about IDU, 68.6 percent indicated use of injection drugs ([CDC](#)).
- **U.S. Prevalence:** An estimated 2.4 million Americans are living with HCV based on 2013-2016 annual averages ([CDC](#)).
- **State Incidence:** There were approximately 2 new cases of acute HCV (0.1 per 100,000 persons) reported in Nebraska in 2016 ([CDC](#)).
- **State Prevalence:** In Nebraska, there are an estimated 8,100 persons living with Hepatitis C (2013-2016 annual average), a rate of 570 cases per 100,000 persons ([HepVu](#)).

Additional Resources

- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, [Drug Overdose Prevention](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Opioid Overdose](#)



NIH RePORTER

FY2018 NIH-funded projects related to opioid use and use disorder in Nebraska: 5

[VIEW RESULTS](#)

[Find treatment in Nebraska \(SAMHSA\)](#)

Notes

1. Not all states collect or report data on the incidence or prevalence of Hepatitis C or on how Hepatitis C is transmitted. When available, the data will be included.
2. Actual acute cases are estimated to be 13.9 times the number of reported cases in any year.